

" MARRIED ON THE SLY "

Property of Johnnie Speer.
(adlibb)

MARRIED ON THE SLY

CAST

ARABELLA	CHARACTER
HANK	CHARACTER COMEDY
TOBY	COMEDY
JOHN	STRAIGHT
KITTY	SOUBRETTE

SETTING

Interior of Hank's home in the country

PROPS

Stage money
Table and chairs
Telegram

MARRIED ON THE SEY

HANK

(ENTERS WITH ARABELLA) Well, Arabella, here we are. This is the old farm, and your new home.

ARABELLA

Our little love nest! (SIGGLES) Oh just think, Hank, we've just been married.

HANK

Yep fast work I call it. Just a case of love at first sight. Well, baby, I hope you like the place. Now this is the parlor, in there's the bed room, the bath room, the kitchen, the dining room and what have you?

ARABELLA

Oh I know we'll be happy. I just love farm life.

HANK

Well, now honey you may be a little hard at first but I'll soften up. Now you just go on in there and make yourself at home.

ARABELLA

All right, Honey. Tooty Fruity! (FLIRTS ACTS GIDDY AND EXITS)

HANK

Ohn I'm a monkey's uncle! Boy! I just cut the mustard right. Went up to the city on a little business and durned if I didn't meet that flower of my heart, and marry her. Well, winter's comin' on, and I guess I can kinda save on the coal bill. There's one thing I sure don't want her to find out about. She thinks I've never been married before. Lordy! if she knew that I'd been married before and had a grown daughter that was going to college she'd throw a fit. Well, she'll never know if I can help. Women are funny that way, if she thought I had a grown up daughter, I might be too old and couldn't nothin'---well, I'll show her! I wonder where that hired man is. I left him in charge of the farm and I want to know if he's been doing things right. Toby! Oh, Toby!

TOBY

(ENTERS L.) Well, here I am. When did you get back, Hank?

HANK

Just got back. How's the farm been getting along since I left?

TOBY

Fine---we aint had a bit of trouble.

HANK

Did you take them there hens to the station like I told you?

TOBY

Yep, they walked all the way down to the de--pot!

HANK

Walked? What the devil are you talkin' about ?

TOBY

I said they walked down to the depot.

HANK

What the tarnation is the idea of you makin' them hens walk down to the depot? What was the matter with the old Ford?

TOBY

Well, I did have 'em on that old Ford---and I got started out for the station. Well, that Pol Parrot of ours was ridin' along on the back.

HANK

The p rrot, huh?

TOBY

Yep. He was ridin' along on the back of the Ford and pretty soon I heard the durndest commotion, and I turned around and there was all the hens walkin along behind the Ford, and the Pol Parrot sittin' on the back end of the car talkin' to 'em.

HANK

What was the Pol Parrot sayin'?

TOBY

Hre says, "When you girls think it over you can get back on and ride again." Say you got a telegram. It 's from your daughter, and she's comin' home. (HANDS HIM OPEN TELEGRAM)

H

HANK

Shat! Listen here what do you mean by opening my telegrams?

TOBY

Well, I didn't mean to open it but I justwanted to see what was in it.

HANK

Curiosity killed a cat.

TOBY

Well, I aint a cat.

HANK

Good Lord , Toby, I can't have my daughter comin' home.

TOBY

Why not?

HANK

Well, when I was in the city, I got married, and I don't want my wife to get wise to the fact that I've been married bfore and got a daughter. I know what I'll do I'll sit down and write her a letter sending some money, and then maybe she won't come.

TOBY

That's a good idea.

HANK

(SITS DOWN AND WRITES.)

KITTY

(ENTERS MOTIONS TOBY TO BE QUIET AND SNEAK OUT. HE EXITS. THEN SHE SLIPS OVER AND PUTS HER HANDS OVER HER FATHER'S EYES) Guess who

it is.

HANK

It's my darling wife!

KITTY

Why father! (WALKS AWAY SURPRISED)

HANK

Oh Lord! It's you, Kitty? Daughter, what the devil did you come here for?

KITTY

Well, I like that. What would any daughter come to see her father for? What did you mean by saying "My wife" Mother has been dead for years.

HANK

Yes so she has---but I was thinking of her. Kitty, you can't stay here. You've got to go back at once. Get! Get!

KITTY

Why?

HANK

Well you see---you see---you see---

KITTY

No I don't see.

HANK

Well, then open your eyes.

KITTY

Father, how strange you act.

HANK

Daughter, you see the fact of the matter is, I've just engaged a housekeeper---and she doesn't believe in having children. I told her I didn't have any, and so if you want to stay here, you'll have to pretend that you are not my daughter. You'll have to be the maid.

KITTY

I'll have to be maid.

HANK

Yes, you'll have to be maid.

KITTY

That's all right, dad---I've been maid before! (MADE)

HANK

Well, I didn't think you could through college without being made so come with me and let's talk it over. (EXIT)

***** NUMBER ONE *****

ARABELLA

(ENTERS R.) Oh dear, I'm so worried. I've gone and got myself married to this old codger, but he doesn't know that I've been married before, and that I've got a grown son. I must keep it a secret. I never want him to know how old I am. I told my son to write me here at this address but on no circumstances should he come and visit me.

JOHN

(SLIPS IN BEHIND ARABELLA WHILE SHE IS TALKING AND JUMPS UP BEHIND HER) Boo!

ARABELLA

(JUMPS AND SCREAMS) Oh you scared me to death.

JOHN

(LAUGHING) Mother!

ARABELLA

Shhhh! Don't call me that. Oh, John, my boy, why did you ever come down here?

JOHN

-Oh well, I just got tired of school and thought I'd take a little vacation in the country with you. Incidentally I can do a little painting. Lots of good subjects out here.

ARABELLA

Oh, John, I don't want you to stay here!

JOHN

Well, you can't run me off and that's all there is to it. What are you doing here anyway, Mother?

ARABELLA

Well, you see---you see---there's a man, and---

JOHN

Mother, you haven't gotten yourself married, have you?

ARABELLA

Oh---I--I don't know--

JOHN

Well, it's about time you found out. No foolin' what are you doing down here?

ARABELLA

Well, I came down here on my week end.

JOHN

That week end of yours bothers you a whole lot.

ARABELLA

Hearsh! You're not too old to spank. I'll want your disposition for you, young man. Now listen if you're going to stay here, you're going to work. The man that owns this place has no loafers.

JOHN

All right, suits me---I don't mind a little work.

ARABELLA

Well, I'll go and tell him that you're here to be his hired man.
I'll make you sorry for coming here, you young upstart. (EXITS R.)

JOHN

There's something in the wind and I can't get the drift.

KITTY.

(ENTERS SEES JOHN) John!

JOHN

(TURNING) Kitty! What are you doing here?

KITTY

Why I---what are you ^{doing} doing here?

JOHN

Why I---Oh I'm just here---I'm going to go to work.

KITY

So am I.

JOHN

What doing?

Kitty

I'm going to be maid.

JOHN

I'm going to be the hired man.

Kitty

How did you come to quit college?

JOHN

Just got tired of it. Gee, Kitty, I'm glad you're here---we'll have a lot of fun.

Kitty

Will we?

MR. JOHN

SINCE THE FIRST DAY OF THE YEAR, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN KILLED BY CARTRIDGE WEAPONS IN THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN OVER ONE THOUSAND.

FIFTY

0HJBAHJBJHBJDJBDBDSDGDODAJJAHBJBBIKJDKAADKANSDIAPJAGGBJD

JOHN

I've got a lot to tell you.

KITTY

I'm just dying to hear it.

JOHN

You're liable to die after you hear it.

KITY

What is it?

JOHN

I love you!

KITTY

I thought you were going to spring something new.

JOHN

Well, here's something new to the same old tale. Will you marry me?

KITTY

I'll think it over.

JOHN

And, dear, after we're married, I'll give you a surprise.

KITTY

Well, just so you don't disappoint me! (THEY EXIT TOGETHER)

***** NUMBER TWO *****

HANK

Well, I wonder where that feller is. The old lady was tellin' me she had a feller who wanted to hire out to me. Well, I'll talk to him and see what ~~ates~~ worth.

JOHN

(ENTERS) I wonder if this is the boss.

HANK

Well, young man, are you ready to go to work for me?

JOHN

I am if you are ready to put me to work.

HANK

Well, if you've come to a place for work, you got the right address.

JOHN

Is the work going to be hard?

HANK

No---it's easy---all you have to do is get up in the morning--

JOHN

Oh well, I do anyway.

HANK

That's good---now you set the alarm clock for three---

JOHN

Three in the afternoon?

HANK

Afternoon nothin'---three o'clock in the morning.

JOHN

Three o'clock in the morning---that's just about the time I go to bed.

HANK

Yeah? Well, then you can just stay right up and go on to work

JOHN

Why get up so early?

HANK

Well, I want you to go out and get the cows---they're over there about three miles from here---now you walk over to the far end of the field and you drive the cows back to the barn---

JOHN

That's six miles I have to walk*--

HANK

Yep---good exercise for you. After you get the cows up to the barn you milk 'em. I haven't got many so you ought to be done with 'em by breakfast.

JOHN

What time is breakfast?

HANK

Five.

JOHN

How many cows have you?

HANK

Well, I'm only milkin' two hundred and fifty head now---sorta cut down---use to have a whole lot.

JOHN

Good lord---I don't milk two hundred and fifty cows do ~~you~~ I?

HANK

You do or else. Now there's one real long horned cow in the bunch---you don't milk him?

JOHN

Why not?

HANK

Well, he's not inclined that way. He acts as the head man. After you get the cows milked you drive 'em back to the field come back and get something to eat.

JOHN

I'll need it. What do you have for breakfast?

HANK

Mush and milk.

JOHN

I don't like it.

HANK

Good---then we'll save that much more left. After you've eaten or rather watched us eat, then you go out and do some plowing---got about three good sized fields for you to plow up before dinner, then by dinner, I expect you'll be pretty hungry---so come on up to the house, and we'll have some mush and milk.

JOHN

We had mush and milk for breakfast.

HANK

I know but you didn't eat it for breakfast so we saved it for dinner---then after dinner, I want you to go out and curry the horses, then go out and hoe the weeds out of the corn---maybe take me around for a little ride---you can drive the horses---then we have supper - now for supper we have something a little different from mush and milk.

JOHN

Good!

HANK

You know a person gets tired of mush and milk all the time so we have something different---instead of mush and milk we have milk and mush. Oh!k

JOHN

Oh!

HANK

Now that's about all you have to do until after supper, and then you go get the cows and milk 'em again, and then drive 'em back that three miles and put 'em in their pen---now leave the bull in a separate pen---I like my cows to get a little sleep, and he balls all the time---keep's 'em awake. Now my boy, how do you think you'll like farm work?

JOHN

Oh I think it's going to be great---I'm just beginning to wonder what I'll do in my spare time.

HANK

Well, if I think of anything else I'll let you know! (EXITS.)

JOHN

Something tells me I'm going to have a good time around here. (EXITS L.)

ARABELLA

(ENTERS R.) I wonder where that young girl is? My husband told me he wanted her to work as a maid. I'll find her and lay the law down to her. Here she comes now.

KITTY

(ENTERS L.) Oh are you the housekeeper?

ARABELLA

Housekeeper! Say young girl I'll make you think housekeeper. Now if you think you're going to have an easy time you're mistaken. Now your duties as a maid will be simple. (NAMES OFF LONG LIST) (EXITS WITH FUNNY WALK)

KITTY

Well of all the creations!

(NOISE OFF STAGE)

JOHN

JOHN
(ENTERS HOLDING THE SEAT OF HIS PANTS) Oh---what a dirty wallop that
cows got.

TOBY
(ENTERS BEHIND HIM) I told you that wasn 't no cow you durn fool.

JOHN
What was it ?

TOBY
A bull---you can't milk them animals

JOHN
(RUBBING HIS PANTS) Say that bull meant business.

TOBY
Yeah, and I guess he thought you meant business too. Gosh your
dumb.

JOHN
Well, I never worked on a farm before ----I'm a painter.

TOBY
YOU PAINT pictures?

JOHN
Yes. I paint portraits.

TOBY
Could you paint a picture of me?

JOHN
No---I never paint animal pictures.

TOBY
(LAUGHS) That's funny!

TOBY
Yeah ---is it? By gosh, just forthat I'm gonna tell your old man
your' messin' around with this here hired man, Kitty.

KITTY
Toby, don't you dare.

TOBY
Well, I won't if you'll give me some money.

JOHN
You can't blackmail me.

TOBY
All right, then I'll call the old man---(STARTS TO CALL) Hey!

JOHN
Here---take this. (GIVES HIM THE MONEY)

TOBY
Give me another dime.

JOHN
What for?

War tax!

TOBY

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JOHN
Don't you know the War's over?

TOBY
Is it?

KITTY
Why certainly.

TOBY
Well, then give me a dime.

JOHN
What for?

TOBY
Peace tax.

JOHN
(HANDS HIM DIME) Here take it and run.

TOBY
Thanks. So you're a painter, are you?

JOHN
Yes, I'm a painter.

TOBY
Did you paint that picture of that cow out there on our barn?

JOHN
Yes---why?

TOBY
Nothin'---only that old bull of ours durned near ruined himself.

KITTY
(SCREAMS AND EXITS)

JOHN
(GETS EASEL AND PREPARES TO PAINT)

TOBY
What's that?

JOHN
That's my easel. You know I can paint anything. I paint anything such as---

TOBY
Barns fences and woodsheds.

JOHN
Me? Nothing like it. I paint beautiful scenery, landscapes, and I make a specialty of flowers. In fact there isn't a flower that I cannot paint. And I'm willing to bet on it too.

TOBY

TOBY

Well, I'll just bet ten dollars you can't paint a flower that I mention.

JOHN

(THEY BET) Put up your money.

TOBY

Paint me a green rose.

JOHN

There's no such thing as a green rose.

TOBY

Then you lose. (STARTS TO PICK UP MONEY)

JOHN

Wait a minute. (WRITES THE WORDS GREEN ROSE AND TAKES THE MONEY)
Well there is a green rose. Go and look for yourself. (LAUGHS AND EXITS)

TOBY

Well, I'm a son of a gun. Stung again! I'll try it on the old man.

HANK

(ENTERS) Toby, why in thearnation aint you out workin'? What's the matter with ye?

TOBY

I'm a painter now. I paint beautiful pictures. Why I painted a flower once that was so natural that the bees lit on it and tried to sip the honey from my painting.

HANK

That's nothing my brother is a great painter and one day he painted a picture of a chicken, and it was so natural that when he threw it in the waste basket it laid there.

TOBY

I'll bet you ten dollars I can paint any flower you mention.

HANK

Well, I've knowed ye a long time, and I never knew of ye painting anything, so I'll just take that bet (BUS. OF BETTING MONEY)

toby

Well, speak up. What flower do you want me to paint? (TO AUDIENCE)
Oh boy this is easy.

HANK

Chrysanthemum! (TOBY LOOKS AMAZED AND SCRATCHES HIS HEAD)

TOBY

Is that a flower or just a sickness?

HANK

Chrysanthemum! It's a flower.

TOBY

Chrysanthemum. What the hell--- (STARTS TO WRITE) Lets see---

12

kerr---kerr-rr---double rr. (TURNS TO HANK) Say won't you please take a lilly of the alley?

HANK
No I insist on a chrysanthemum. (ADLIBB BUS.)

TOBY
(IN DESPAIR) Say how do you spell chrysanthemum?

HANK
Why don't you know how to spell chrysanthemum? That's easy. I'll spell it for you. (SPELLS AND WRITES OUT LOUD) Y O U L O S E !
And that spells chrysanthemum. (LAUGHS AND EXITS WITH MONEY)

TOBY
(MUGS. THEN STARTS SPELLING OUT WHAT HE HAS WRITTEN) Y O U L O S E. You lose! (BUS. OF MUGGING AGAIN) Damned if I didn't!
(EXITS)

***** NUMBER THREE *****

ARABELLA
(OFF STAGE NAMES A LONG LIST FOR KITTY TO DO. THEY ARGUE) (ADLIBB)

KITTY
(ENTERS CRYING) Oh that horrid old woman.

HANK
(ENTERS) Well, well, Kitty, what's the matter with you, Honey?

KITTY
Oh that old woman just makes me work all of the time. I don't have any fun at all. Daddy, I don't like. (CRIES ON HIS SHOULDER)

HANK
(PUTS ARMS AROUND HER AND TRIES TO COMFORT HER) There! There! Now don't cry, honey.

ARABELLA
ENTERS UNNOTICED AND SEES THEM LETS OUT A SCREAM AND EXITS QUICKLY)

HANK
Six o'clock every body go home. What was that?

KITTY
It must have been the wind. I'm going to my room and have a cry.
(EXITS)

HANK
I'm going out in the barn and have a drink. (EXITS)

ARABELLA
Oh that old hedgehog---putting his arms around that young woman,
(ADEIBBS AND WALKS UP AND DOWN THE STAGE RAVING)

JOHN
(ENTERS WALKS UP AND DOWN WITH HER) What's the matter, Mother?

ARABELLA
Oh I'm going to blow up, I'm going to explode. I'm boiling.

JOHN

(PUTS ARMS AROUND) Now mother don't take it so hard.

ARABELLA

Don't tell me how to take it---I've taken it before you were born.

HANK

(ENTERS AND SEES THEM IN EACH OTHERS EMBRACE) Ah ha. (EXITS)

ARABELLA

Oh I'm going to find that old devil---and kill him, and then I'll divorce him. (EXITS)

JOHN

Oh boy---I wonder what stirred her up.

KITTY

(ENTERS) Oh, John, I'm so unhappy. Let's leave here at once.

JOHN

All right---pack your things---and we'll get married at once.

KITTY

I will. (EXITS)

ARABELLA

(ENTERS) I'll leave that old devil if it's the last thing I do in my life. I will! I will!

~~KITTY~~ JOHN

Why, mother, what is the matter? (PUTS HIS ARMS AROUND HER THEY ADLIBB)

KITTY

(ENTERS) (SCREAMS AND EXITS) So!

JOHN

Did somebody say something? (LOOKS AROUND)

ARABELLA

No, but I'm going to say something when I get my hands on him. (EXITS FOLLOWED BY JOHN)

KITTY

(ENTERS CRYING) Oh the brute. Boo hoo!

HANK

What's the matter, Honey? (ENTERS) Cryin' again?

KITTY

Oh, daddy, I'm so miserable---I'm going to kill myself.

HANK

Now, don't do that, honey. Tell your old dad. (PUTS ARMS AROUND HER) Somebody been doin' you wrong?

KITTY

Yes---I hate men.

HANK

Not all men.

JOHN

(ENTERS UNNOTICED)

I hate)
All men except you. (HUGS HIM)

JOHN

AH HA! (EXITS)

HANK

Well, I wonder where the old lady is?

ARABELLA

(ENTERS) Well, you won't wonder long. You old devil flirting with
this young upstart. Oh I'll fix you.

HANK

Now wait a minute, let me explain.

ARABELLA

Explain there's nothing to explain,

JOHN

(ENTERS) What's the argument?

HANK

Plenty. Look here waht do you mean by hugging this young rascal.
(THEY ADLIBB. KITTY AND JOHN ADLIBB AND THEY ARE WALKING UP AND
DOWN THE STAGE FIGHTING.

TOBY

(ENTERS) Hey ! There's something I want to tell you.

HANK

(PUSHES HIM DOWN) Shut up!

TOBY

But this is important.

ARABELLA

(SHOVES HIM) Don't speak to me.

TOBY

Dadburn you ought to know this?

KITTY

Don't you interfere. (PUSHES HIM)

TOBY

Hey, somebody listen to me.

JOHN

(SHOVES HIM DOWN) Shut up!

KITTY

(CRIES) Oh, John, how could you?

JOHN

Listen, Kitty, I'll tell you. (WHISPERS IN HER EAR)

KITTY
Honest? OH, John---I forgive you. ~~LEBKSEKEDDEDTHOK~~

JOHN
Let's get married.

KITTY
All right. Father, John and I want to be married.

HANK
What!

ARABELLA
What did you call him, young lady?

KITTY
I called him father.

ARABELLA
Oh ho. So you've been married before .

HANK
Oh dad burn it! Well, I've been married before. I guess there's no use arguing? But, Kitty, you'll not marry that latitudinarian son of a lop eared polock.

ARABELLA
Stop! Don't you dare call my son---

HANK
Your son!

ARABELLA
Oh it slipped.

HANK
I thought so. So you've been married before, eh?. I thought there was something funny about that last night--(MUMBLES TO HIMSELF)

ARABELLA
Oh, Hank, forgive me!

HANK
I ought to knock you flat.

TOBY
Hey---I want to tell you something,

HANK
Shut up! Arabella, I forgive you! Come to my arms, you old devil! Daughter, do you love that airdale.

KITTY
Yes, father.

HANK
Take him--and remember that marrigge is a manufacturing plant -and may you turn out many per year.

TOBY

There's something I want to tell you.

HANK

Shut up and don't bother me.

KITTY

I smell smoke! (SNIFFS)

JOHN

I smell smoke.

ARABELLA

I smell smoke.

HANK

By gosh so do I. What is it?

TOBY

TOBY
It's nothing. I'd tell you. I've been trying to tell you for an hour.

HANK

(ALL SCREAM) What is it?

TOBY

You're house is on fire. (THEY ALL SCREAM AND EXIT)

FINALE